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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0515
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 002046

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/12/2017
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ETRD](#) [ETTC](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [GR](#)
SUBJECT: GREEK POSITIONS IN ADVANCE OF OCTOBER 15-16 GAERC

REF: A. SECSTATE 141316

[1](#)B. SECSTATE 143223

Classified By: A/POLCOUNS PAUL CARTER. REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

[1](#)1. (C) Acting Political Counselor discussed ref a points on U.S. positions with regard to the October 15-16 GAERC with MFA All Directorate for EU Common Foreign and Security Policy Correspondent Penny Douti. A/PolCouns also discussed ref a Iran points with A6 Directorate for Arab and Middle Eastern Countries Deputy Director Giorgos Ayfantis. Charge was scheduled to discuss ref b Iran points with MFA Secretary General Agathokles later today.

[1](#)2. (C) Greek responses below are keyed to demarche subjects:

WTO/DDA: Douti had no substantive comment.

KOSOVO: Greece supported the work of the Troika but preferred not to discuss plan-B scenarios at this point. According to Douti, Greece believed that any speculation on what would happen if negotiations were unsuccessful hurt the negotiations, which must be given every opportunity for success. Moreover, Greece believed that any final solution needed to be legalized through a new UN resolution. Existing resolutions would not be sufficient.

RUSSIA: Greece, along with other EU member states, shared U.S. concerns about Russia's retreat from democracy. Currently, the EU was consumed by preparations for the October 26 EU-Russia summit. Most important was reaching a new partnership agreement with Russia. On-going disputes between Russia and Poland over Polish meat remained an obstacle, however, and everyone recognized that this was a cover for Russia's political displeasure with the Poles.

LIBYA: Greece shared the U.S. position.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS: Greece supported Blair's and other efforts leading toward a peace process. Greece has contributed 14.5 million euro to Iraq reconstruction and humanitarian projects through the UN and bilaterally. END NOTE.

IRAN: Douti and A6 Deputy Head Ayfantis both stressed Greece's support for a united front on the Iran issue. It was important to show solidarity. Greece might also endorse the French proposal for sanctions parallel to the UNSC process. A discussion, however, was necessary on any sanctions to determine what exactly they would target and what their effect would be. Sanctions for the sake of showing solidarity were unhelpful if they hardened Iran's position. Greece did not wish to offend Kouchner but needed solid answers.

SYRIA-LEBANON BORDER: Greece agreed with U.S. position.

CHAD: Greece agreed with U.S. position.

BURMA: The EU had already arrived at agreed conclusions and would discuss sanctions.

COUNTRYMAN